

The American Embassy Newsletter

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Embassy of the United States of America to Lithuania

Ignalina Shuts Down Uneventfully

Lithuania shut down the Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant on December 31 as planned and without incident, fulfilling one of the accession pledges made to the EU. The EU's continued to insist that it close because it does not consider the "Chernobyl style" reactor at Ignalina to be safe enough in the event of a major malfunction -- even with safety and security upgrades that have been added to the facility in recent years.

Ignalina had been producing about 70% of this country's electricity, and consumers can now expect their electricity prices to increase by up to one third. The natural gas and oil fired Elektrenai power plant has now become Lithuania's largest energy producer.

The Government of Lithuania recently announced plans to build a new nuclear power plant in Visaginas and is now looking for investors; however any new nuclear power plant is not expected to become operational for another eight to ten years.

Features:

Ignalina Closes w/o Incident

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!H1N1 Update!

The Government of Lithuania purchased 27,000 doses of an H1N1 vaccine in late December but has no plans to sell to consumers. The Government will distribute the drugs per the Ministry of Health to priority groups such as medical personnel. While no H1N1 vaccine is available for purchase in Lithuania, anti-viral drugs still are. The U.S. Embassy encourages you to get vaccinated against seasonal flu. The seasonal vaccine is available in Lithuania.

Also in December, the National Commission for Extreme Situations announced that the flu in Lithuania is no-longer at epidemic levels, even though new flu cases are still being reported. The most recent death from H1N1 occurred January 5 when a 23 yr old woman from Jurbarkas died eight days after being hospitalized in Kaunas. The total number of flu deaths this winter is 25 (17 from H1N1 and eight from seasonal flu). Lithuanian officials say a second wave of flu is expected in late January or early February.

What Can You Do to Stay Healthy?

- Wash your hands regularly with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds to eradicate viruses and bacteria. When soap and water are not available, apply a hand sanitizer with a minimum of 60 percent alcohol content.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes.
- Get vaccinated against seasonal flu.
- Ask your employer, organization or school about contingency plans.
- **Please review detailed community mitigation guidelines, as well as information on the use of masks and anti-viral medications in a pandemic, also available at www.flu.gov.**

HIV Status No Longer Bar to Immigration to U.S.

On November 2, the Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention removed HIV infection from the list of communicable diseases of "public health significance" and in doing so, removed references to HIV from the list of medical examinations for aliens intending to emigrate to the U.S.

The final rule went into effect on January 4, 2010. As of this date, HIV infection will no longer be an inadmissible condition, and HIV testing will no longer be required for medical examinations for immigrant visa purposes.

It also means that applicants who are HIV-positive and were previously denied an immigration visa will no longer require waiver processing by the Department of Homeland Security to enter the U.S. The U.S. Embassy in Vilnius started issuing immigrant visas in April 6, 2009.

The Foreign Service Written Exam March 3, 2010

The Foreign Service Written Exam is being offered at the U.S. Embassy Vilnius on March 3, 2010 at 09:00 AM (arrival time is 08:30 AM).

To find more information and register for the test, please visit the [website: http://careers.state.gov/officer/register.html](http://careers.state.gov/officer/register.html). The deadline for candidates intending to submit a completed Registration Package is February 24, 2010, 09:00 AM (U.S. CST).

2010 Holidays

The U.S. Embassy Vilnius will observe the following U.S. and local holidays in 2010:

January 1, Friday -	New Year's Day (US/LT)
January 18, Monday -	Birthday of Martin Luther King (US)
February 15, Monday -	President's Day (US)
February 16, Tuesday -	Lithuanian Independence Day (LT)
March 11, Thursday -	Independence Statehood Day (LT)
April 5, Monday -	Easter Monday (LT)
May 31, Monday -	Memorial Day (US)
June 24, Thursday -	St. John's Day (LT)
July 5, Monday -	Independence Day (US)
July 6, Tuesday -	Coronation of the King Mindaugas Day (LT)
September 6, Monday --	Labor Day (US)
October 11, Monday -	Columbus Day (US)
November 1, Monday --	All Saints' Day (LT)
November 11, Thursday -	Veteran's Day (US)
November 25, Thursday -	Thanksgiving Day (US)
December 24, Friday --	Christmas Day (US)
December 31, Friday -	New Year's Day (US)

U.S. Embassy's American Center New Books/DVD Acquisitions

AVAILABLE BOOKS

NON-FICTION

Algeo, Matthew

Harry Truman's Excellent Adventure, 1st ed. - Chicago: Chicago Review Press, 2009

Public radio reporter Algeo (Last Team Standing) brings the 1950s into focus with a fascinating reconstruction of Harry and Bess Truman's post-presidential 2,500-mile road trip.

Burby, Jason; Atchison, Shane

Actionable Web Analytics: Using Data to Make Smart Business Decisions

Knowing everything you can about each click to your Web site can help you make strategic decisions regarding your business. This book is about the why, not just the how, of web analytics and the rules for developing a "culture of analysis" inside your organization.

Feinman, Jay M

Law 101: Everything You Need to Know About the American Legal System

This basic text offers nonlawyers a concise, accessible overview of constitutional law, civil procedure, torts, contracts, property, criminal law and criminal procedure.

Hirsch, E. D. (Eric Donald)

The New Dictionary of Cultural Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know

Hogue, W. Lawrence

Postmodern American literature and its Other...

Kopp, Harry, Gillespie, Charles A.

Career diplomacy: Life and Work in the U.S. Foreign Service

O'Connor, Kevin

The History of the Baltic States

Peterson, Peter G.

The Education of an American Dreamer: How a Son of Greek Immigrants Learned his Way from Nebraska Diner to Washington, Wall Street, and Beyond

With insight and refreshing candor, Peter G. Peterson describes his remarkable life story beginning in Kearney, Nebraska as an eight-year-old manning the cash register at his father's Greek diner through his "Mad Men" advertising days, to Secretary of

Commerce in Nixon's paranoid White House, to the tumultuous days of Lehman Brothers, and to the creation of The Blackstone Group, one of the great financial enterprises in recent times.

Schama, Simon
The American Future: A History

Schultz, Patricia
1,000 places to see in the USA and Canada Before You Die

Scott, David Meerman.
The new rules of Marketing and PR : How to Use Social Media, Blogs, News Releases, Online Video, and Viral Marketing to Reach Buyers Directly

Weiss, Alan
Million dollar Consulting: the Professional's Guide to Growing a Practice
Completely updated for today's consultants, this classic how-to handbook gives you the strategies and guidance needed to grow a firm that can bring in \$1 million-a-year. Consultants will find critical new material on how to overcome objections and vital information on internet- and e-based marketing and sales.

Wiesel, Elie
Night, 1st ed. of New Translation
In Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel's memoir Night, a scholarly, pious teenager is wracked with guilt at having survived the horror of the Holocaust and the genocidal campaign that consumed his family. His memories of the nightmare world of the death camps present him with an intolerable question: how can the God he once so fervently believed in have allowed these monstrous events to occur?

Zakaria, Fareed
The Post-American World
Following on the success of his best-selling The Future of Freedom, Zakaria describes with equal prescience a world in which the United States will no longer dominate the global economy, orchestrate geopolitics, or overwhelm cultures.

FICTION

Bohjalian, Christopher A.
The Double Bind
In his new novel, a literary thriller with references to (and including characters from) The Great Gatsby, Bohjalian takes readers on a haunting journey through one woman's obsession with uncovering a dark secret.

Hosseini, Khaled
A Thousand Splendid Suns
This is a story about the hardships women face in Afghanistan. The author holds nothing back in painting a stark picture of what it means to be a woman in a culture where they are valued only for how well they keep a house, and how many sons they

produce. A culture where they are subject to the whims of men. Those that value them as worthwhile human beings are welcome oases - they seem to be the exceptions in their world, rather than the norm.

Lipman, Elinor

My Latest Grievance

Frederica Hatch—the articulate, curious, and naïve narrator of Lipman's eighth novel—proves the perfect vehicle for this satiric yet compassionate family portrait. As in previous novels, Lipman addresses sensitive issues (anti-Semitism, adultery, dementia) with delicacy and acerbity. She also nails the shifts and moods of an angry teenager, a grandmother in denial, a philanderer in hiding and a campus in shock.

AVAILABLE DVDs and CDs

Bragg, Melvyn

The Adventure of English: the Life Story of a Remarkable Language

8 episodes, 4 DVDs, approx. 405 min.

Ferris, Timothy

Life Beyond Earth

Color, 110 min.

What does the great beyond hold? Is there extraterrestrial life on other planets? Join Timothy Ferris as he journeys into the unknown, exploring why many scientists believe there is life in the cosmos and how they're searching to make contact. Uncover scientific discoveries that will send chills down your spine and make your mind tingle with excitement. Find out if we really do have fellow travelers among the stars.

Ramonienė, Meilutė; Stumbrienė, Virginija

Teach Yourself Lithuanian

Two 70 min. CDs + book

The package includes:

- *Extensive exercises so you can review what you have learned*
- *An overview of the culture, giving you an understanding of how Lithuanian is used in context. In addition, the two CDs feature native speakers in conversation as well as interactive exercises for you to use as reinforcement.*